

Smithsonian Exhibition Explores the Diverse Food Traditions of America

Contributed by Curtis Rogers
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Museums in Elloree, Belton, Lake City, Johnston, and Edisto Island, in cooperation with the Humanities Council SC, will host the local showing of Key Ingredients: America by Food, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition which delves into the historical, regional and social traditions that merge in everyday meals and celebrations of the American table.

The exhibition will be on view beginning in Elloree at the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center on Friday, June 27, 2008, and ending on May 9, 2009 at the Edisto Island Museum giving citizens an opportunity to celebrate the region's food heritage.

The exhibition will tour the following locations:

ELLOREE HERITAGE MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER (Orangeburg County)

Friday, June 27, 2008 – August 10, 2008

CONTACT: Adadra Williams

elloreemuseum@ntinet.com

BELTON AREA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION (Anderson County)

Friday, August 15-October 5, 2008

CONTACT: Shirah Heller

bama7400@aol.com

NATIONAL BEAN MARKET MUSEUM (Florence County)

Friday, October 24 – December 21, 2008

CONTACT: Briley Altman

lccm2002@ftc-i.net

EDGEFIELD COUNTY PEACH MUSEUM (Edgefield County)

Friday, January 9, 2009 – March 1, 2009

CONTACT: Donna Livingston

info@edgefieldcountychamber.org

EDISTO ISLAND MUSEUM (Charleston County)

Friday, March 6, 2009 – May 9, 2009

CONTACT: Gretchen Smith

gsmith@edistomuseum.org

Through a selection of artifacts, photographs and illustrations, Key Ingredients examines how culture, ethnicity, landscape and tradition influence the foods and flavors we enjoy across the nation. The exhibition looks at the evolution of the American kitchen and how food industries have responded to the technological innovations that have enabled Americans to choose an ever-wider variety of frozen, prepared and fresh foods.

An interactive website, www.keyingredients.org, has been developed in conjunction with the exhibition. The site invites people across the country to share their family recipes and food stories, learn about other food traditions and identify favorite small town eateries.

Key Ingredients is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more about Key Ingredients and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit www.museumonmainstreet.org.

The United States Congress has provided support for Museum on Main Street. SITES connects millions of Americans with their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of art, science and history exhibitions. State humanities councils, located in each state and U.S. territory, support community-based humanities programs that highlight such topics as local history, literature and cultural traditions. The Humanities CouncilSC seeks to increase public understanding of and support for the humanities; telling the human story by awarding grants for high-quality public programs, by generating special humanities initiatives, and by bringing humanities perspectives to bear on contemporary issues. To learn more, visit www.sites.si.edu and www.schumanities.org.

For more information, contact

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